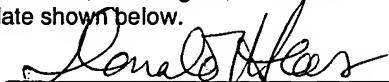


PATENT
TH1647 04(US)
DFH:EM

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on or before the date shown below.


Donald F. Haas

Date: April 2, 2004

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the accompanying application of)
CHARLES L. EDWARDS, KIRK H. RANEY,)
and PAUL G. SHPAKOFF)
Serial No. 10/679,126) Group Art Unit: 1621
Filed October 3, 2003) Examiner: Jean F. Vollano
BRANCHED PRIMARY ALCOHOL) April 2, 2004
COMPOSITIONS AND DERIVATIVES)
THEREOF)

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Pursuant to the restriction requirement of March 18, 2004, the Applicants have been required to restrict the claims to one of six groups. However, the only claims pending in the present application are claims 18 through 29, and 42 through 46, which are the claims in Group III in the original restriction requirement in the parent case. Please see Section 4.c. in the utility patent application transmittal form.

For the reasons set forth above, the Applicants believe that the restriction requirement has been overcome and that the proper group of claims pending in this case is claims 18 through 29 and claims 42-46 which correspond to Group III of the original restriction requirement in the parent case.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES L. EDWARDS, KIRK H. RANEY,
and PAUL G. SHPAKOFF

By



Their Attorney, Donald F. Haas
Registration No. 26,177
(713) 241-3356

P.O. Box 2463
Houston, Texas 77252-2463